

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

North American Wildlife Conference

The tenth North American Wildlife Conference, which was to be held in New York City February 26 to 28, was canceled following the request of the Office of Defense Transportation for cancellation of all meetings that involve fifty or more persons and do not contribute directly to the war effort. Papers prepared for reading at the Conference will be published in the 1945 *Transactions*.

DDT and Wildlife

The discovery of the insecticidal value of the chemical popularly known as DDT has led to grandiose and ill-planned schemes for its widespread use which have raised serious misgivings in the minds of those interested in the welfare of wild plants and animals. Too little is known about the potential effects of this chemical to warrant its unrestricted use. The American Association of Economic Entomologists, following their meeting in New York during December, 1944, issued a statement concerning DDT whose expressed object was to summarize the results of individual research with DDT as reported at the meeting and to correct "misunderstanding, over-optimism and distorted impressions." Unfortunately this sober statement of the facts has not been widely publicized. After pointing out the unquestionable value of DDT in the destruction of malaria mosquitoes and other pests, the report continues: "DDT will not kill all the important insect pests. It will kill many beneficial insects which are allies of mankind against the destructive species. Because of its toxicity to a wide variety of insects, its large-scale use might create problems which do not now exist. To illustrate, it is a superior insecticide for control of codling moth on apples, but in some sections at least will kill certain natural enemies and thus release other insects which may then become major problems.

"We do not know enough about effects on plants, animals and soils. . . . DDT is toxic to animal life when large amounts are taken internally or absorbed through the skin from oil solutions, but reports indicate a reasonable margin of safety. In the light of our present knowledge, heavy deposits on edible parts of plants should be avoided. Reports show definite toxicity to cold-blooded animal life including fish and frogs.

"More and larger-scale experimentation is needed."

It is thus apparent that all wildlife conservationists, particularly those charged with research programs, should give serious thought to the determination of the necessary safeguards in the use of this material.

Conservation Department in Ohio

The Ohio Postwar Program Commission has proposed the formation of a unified state conservation department which will coordinate the now separated activities of soil, water, mineral, forest, and wildlife conservation and parks and recreation. A bill (S.B. 22) covering this proposal has been introduced in the current session of the legislature.

Clear Streams Bill

A bill (H.R. 519) has been introduced in the National House of Representatives providing for national control of stream pollution. The bill provides for the establishment of a governing board giving representation to the Secretaries of the Interior, Agriculture, War, and Navy, and to the Surgeon General. Two members of the Senate and two of the House are also included. This should insure a well-balanced approach to the problem. The Izaak Walton League of America is supporting the proposed bill.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Charles A. Dambach, *Chairman*